



**H.R. 3311 - To authorize additional funds for emergency repairs and reconstruction of the Interstate I-35 bridge located in Minneapolis, Minnesota, that collapsed on August 1, 2007, to waive the \$100,000,000 limitation on emergency relief funds for those emergency repairs and reconstruction, and for other purposes**

**Floor Situation**

H.R. 3311 is being considered on the House floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced on August 2, 2007 by Representative James Oberstar (D-MN). The bill was ordered to be reported from the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

H.R. 3311 is expected to be considered on the House floor on August 3, 2007.

**Summary**

The bill authorizes the Secretary of Transportation to carry out a project for the repair and reconstruction of the Interstate I-35 Bridge located in Minneapolis, MN, which collapsed on August 1, 2007.

The Federal share of this project will be 100%. The bill authorizes \$250 million for the reconstruction effort.

The bill waives the \$100 million limitation for repairs occurring due to any one specific natural disaster for highways and bridges.

H.R. 3311 permits the Secretary of Transportation to:

- Use funds authorized by this bill to repair the Interstate I-35W Bridge in Minneapolis, MN;
- To reimburse the Minnesota State department of transportation, which must not exceed \$5 million, for actual and necessary costs of maintenance and operation for additional public transportation services and traveler information services which are provided by the department of transportation as a substitute for highway traffic service following the collapse of the bridge until highway traffic service is restored to the bridge.
- The Federal share of the cost of activities reimbursed is 100%.

**Background**

On August 1, 2007, the Interstate-35W bridge in Minneapolis, MN, collapsed during rush hour traffic. This bridge is the most traveled bridge in the State of Minnesota.

"We talked about the fact that the bridge collapsed, and that we in the federal government must respond and respond robustly to help the people there not only recover, but to make sure that lifeline of activity, that bridge, gets rebuilt as quickly as possible." President Bush's statement on August 2, 2007.

**Cost**

The Congressional Budget Office has not scored this legislation.

**Staff Contact:**

For questions or further information contact Chris Vieson at (202) 226-2302.